



EcoAdventures E-Newsletter

Geiger Tree

A cherished native or an evil exotic?

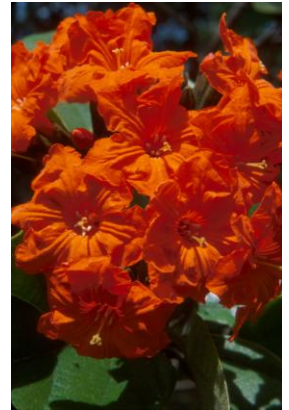
By Roger L. Hammer

A number of years ago I penned a rather emotionally disturbing article for the Florida Native Plant Society about our beloved Geiger Tree (*Cordia sebestena*) and how some early reports of it escaping cultivation around Key West at the turn of the 20th century had caused some botanists to reconsider its native status in Florida. Lo and behold, when the Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida (Wunderlin, 1998) was published there was the dreaded asterisk next to *Cordia sebestena*, designating it as a naturalized exotic species in Florida.

Some proponents of exotic flowering trees were almost giddy over the news because they've long held that native trees don't have showy flowers, and therefore, we should embrace beautiful exotic flowering trees like Royal Poinciana (*Delonix regia*). To counter the absurd notion that native trees are not as showy, nor as worthy, of cultivation as exotic species, native-plant aficionados would point to the Geiger tree as an example of a beautiful native flowering tree.

For the rest of the article – www.miamidade.gov/ecoadventures/geiger.asp

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May 2010



Feature Event for May

Summer Camp Open-House

May 22, 2010 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Join us for an open house at our Nature Centers that are offering Summer Camps. Learn about the programs, see the facilities, meet staff. For program descriptions go to our website at www.miamiecoadventures.com

AD Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center—305-662-4124

Arch Creek Park—Meets at Greynolds Park Boathouse—305-944-6111

Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center—305-255-4767

Castellow Hammock Park & Nature Center—305-242-7688

Nature Centers

AD Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center

3401 SW 72 Ave.
Miami, FL 33155
305-662-4124

Arch Creek Nature Center

1855 NE 135 St.
North Miami, FL 33181
305-944-6111

Bill Sadowski Nature Center

17555 SW 79 Ave.
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
305-255-4767

Castellow Hammock Nature Center

22301 SW 162 Ave.
Miami, FL 33170
305-242-7688

Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center

6767 Crandon Blvd.
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
305-361-6767 ext. 112

May Calendar of Events

CRANDON NATURALIST ECOLOGY SERIES:

Coastal Birds

Saturday, May 1, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

\$10 per person

Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, 305-361-6767 ext 112

YOGA

Sunday, May 2, 16 & 30, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Wednesday May 5 & 19, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

\$10 per person

Bill Sadowski Park, 305-255-4767

INDIAN KEY KAYAK EXPEDITION

Saturday May 8

\$85.00 per person

A.D. Barnes Nature Center, 305-365-3018

MIAMI HERITAGE TOUR: “SEE IT LIKE A NATIVE”

Sunday, May 9, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\$50 / person

Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, 305-365-3018

MOTHER’S DAY CANOE TOUR

Sunday, May 9, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

\$28 per adult, \$17 per children (14 and under)

Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center, 305-255-4767

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Wednesday, May 12, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Wednesday, May 26, 9:30am - 10:30am

\$6 per child & caregiver (Ages 3- 6 accompanied by a grownup)

Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, 305-361-6767 ext 112

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Thursday, May 13 & 27, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM, repeats at 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

\$6 per child & caregiver

Bill Sadowski Park, 305-255-4767

CRANDON NATURALIST ECOLOGY SERIES:

Coastal Hammocks

Saturday, May 15, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

\$10 per person

Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, 305-361-6767 ext 112

INDIAN KEY KAYAK EXPEDITION

Saturday May 22

\$85.00 per person

A.D. Barnes Nature Center, 305-365-3018

LIGNUM VITAE KEY KAYAK EXPEDITION

Saturday May 22

\$85.00 per person

A.D. Barnes Nature Center, 305-365-3018

MIAMI HERITAGE TOUR: “SEE IT LIKE A NATIVE”

Sunday, May 23, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\$50 / person

Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, 305-365-3018

SUNSET CANOE & CAMPFIRE

Friday, May 28, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

\$33 per adult, \$20 per child (14 and under)

Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center, 305-255-4767

CRANDON PARK’S SUNSET & MOONLIGHT KAYAK ADVENTURE

Saturday, May 29, 5:30 PM—8:00 PM

\$40 per person

Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, 305-365-3018

For a full list of events, including on going programs, check out our website
www.miamiecoadventures.com

Kid's Corner

Endangered Species Day—May 21, 2010

10 Things you can do to protect Endangered Species

- 1) Learn about endangered species in your area
- 2) Visit a national wildlife refuge, park or other open space
- 3) Make your home wildlife friendly
- 4) Provide habitat for wildlife by planting native vegetation in your yard
- 5) Minimize use of herbicides and pesticides
- 6) Slow down when driving
- 7) Recycle and buy sustainable products
- 8) Never purchase products made from threatened or endangered species
- 9) Report any harassment or shooting of threatened and endangered species
- 10) Protect wildlife habitat

For more about this list go to - <http://www.stopextinction.org/esd.html>

For more information about endangered species do here -

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/kids/index.html>

For information about Florida's species go here -

http://myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/imperiledSpp_index.htm

Ask a Naturalist

Have a question for our Naturalists? Send it to us at
ecoadventures@miamidade.gov

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us at
ecoadventures@miamidade.gov and put "remove from mailing list" in the subject
line

Questions or comments? Email us at ecoadventures@miamidade.gov or call 305-
365-3018

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to apply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Call (305) 365-6706 (V/TDD) to request material in accessible format, sign language interpreter five days in advance, or for information on access for persons with disabilities.

